

R E M A R K S

A certified translation of the priority document, namely Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-204728, was first timely filed at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) in this application on May 16, 2003, as proven by the mail room date stamp on the copy of the postcard receipt attached hereto as Exhibit A. Additional copies of the certified translation were subsequently filed. Yet another copy of the certified translation is filed herewith as Exhibit B, C, D, E, and F. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge that the certified copy is of record in the PTO file and to inform the undersigned of the date it became a part of the official PTO file.

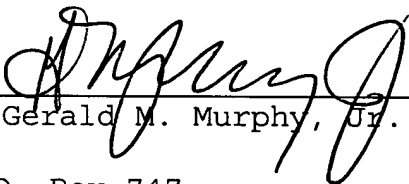
It is respectfully submitted that presence in the PTO file of the translation of the priority document overcomes any rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102. It is further respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the case to issue. No waiver is made of any right to request and receive refunds in this case.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David R. Murphy (Reg. No. 22,751) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

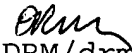
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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0171-0763P

Exhibits:

- A.** Postcard Receipt stating in part "ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT JAPANESE #2000-204728 ... PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE MAY 16 2003"
- B.** CERTIFICATION dated 12th day of May, 2003 signed by Takashi KOJIMA relating to Japanese number 2000-204728 (1 page);
- C.** translation entitled "PATENT OFFICE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT" (3 pages);
- D.** Translation of the application in chief (23 pages);
- E.** Drawings (3 pages); and
- F.** Abstract (1 page).